



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Spreitzer avoids conflict of interest on campaign finance law re-write

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) recused himself from a final vote on AB 387 after speaking out strongly on the bill which entirely guts and rewrites Wisconsin’s campaign finance laws. AB 387 completely transforms Chapter 11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which covers campaign donation limits, disclosure and reporting requirements, and coordination between candidates, political parties, and independent groups.

“Unfortunately, as an elected official I could not, in good conscience, vote on a bill that will directly affect my campaign committee and my reelection,” Rep. Spreitzer said. “Under the guise of protecting free speech, this proposal opens the floodgates and allows more money to flow into the pockets of politicians as fast and as often as special interests can write a check.”

Rep. Spreitzer cited Wisconsin statutes requiring recusal if a representative has a “substantial financial interest,” and joined his fellow Democratic representatives in avoiding a conflict of interest on the bill.

AB 387, for the first time in Wisconsin history, will allow corporations to give unlimited funds to political parties and legislative campaign committees. The proposal would also allow individuals to spend unlimited amounts of money campaigning without having to tell anyone who they are.

“After voting to exempt politicians from investigations for violation of political corruption and voting to dismantle Wisconsin’s nonpartisan watchdog, Republicans have now capped it off by making it easier for political corruption to occur,” Rep. Spreitzer said. “Unlimited money, corporate contributions, no transparency, and perfectly legal collusion and coordination between candidates and outside groups is simply wrong for Wisconsin.”

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